

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164115

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 6165 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF
INFO BRUSSELS USNMR SHAPE BE USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
JUN 28

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 06165

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS ALSO FOR ODC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR BELGIAN HAWK IMPROVEMENT

REF: (A) USDEL 163/77 (DTG 171716Z MAR 77)(NOTAL),
(B) USNATO 1082 (DTG 281832Z FEB 77), (C) STATE 046670
(DTG 030018Z MAR 77)

1. ASYG MUMFORD HAS INFORMED US PRIVATELY OF THE OUTCOME
OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE INFORMAL IS/SHAPE/BELGIAN
GROUP FORMED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF BELGIUM'S
ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE HAWK BELT. THIS GROUP
HAS AGREED ON THREE BASIC FUNDING OPTIONS TO SOLVE THE
PROBLEM:

- A. EITHER THE REQUIRED ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES
WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY BELGIUM OVER AND ABOVE
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CURRENT PLANS; OR

- B. THE GOB NEGOTIATES A FINANCIAL LOAN FROM EXTERNAL
SOURCES TO COVER THE COST OF MODERNIZATION; OR

- C. BELGIUM PROVIDES THE MANPOWER AND OPERATING COSTS
WHILE:

- D. - THE IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AND MISSILES REQUIRED FOR EIGHT, OR A MINIMUM OF SIX, BATTERIES IN THE BELT ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO BELGIUM ON LOAN AND FREE OF CHARGE BY ANOTHER ALLY (OR ALLIES); OR

- E. - THE EXISTING BELGIAN BASIC EQUIPMENT IS BROUGHT UP TO THE IMPROVED HAWK CONFIGURATION BY ANOTHER ALLY (OR ALLIES) WHO WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED MISSILES ON LOAN AND FREE OF CHARGE.

2. THE GROUP HAS PREPARED A REPORT FOR SYG LUNS, WHICH IDENTIFIES THE OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDS EXPLORATION OF OPTIONS A AND C. AS YET THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CIRCULATED TO NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. ASYG MUMFORD INTENDS, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, TO PUT THESE OPTIONS TO NATIONS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, HE HAS ACCEDDED TO OUR REQUEST TO DELAY RELEASE FOR A TIME, TO ALLOW US TO PROVIDE HIM WASHINGTON'S VIEWS.

3. ACCORDING TO MUMFORD, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BELGIAN REPS, OPTIONS A AND B ARE PROBABLY RULED OUT BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. WE SUGGESTED THAT OPTION C APPEARED TO BE A NON-STARTER THAT WOULD PROBABLY POSE LEGAL AND CONGRESSIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THE US (AS WELL AS FOR THE FRG). WE SAID WE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE US

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COULD EASILY JUSTIFY LENDING EQUIPMENT OR PROVIDING A MORATORIUM ON PAYMENT TO A WEALTHY, DEVELOPED COUNTRY LIKE BELGIUM. WE RECOGNIZED THAT THE BELGIANS WOULD BEAR THE PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF OPTION C, AND THAT OPTION C MIGHT ENTAIL LOWER COSTS FOR AFFECTED NATIONS (PRINCIPALLY THE FRG AND THE US) THAN EXPENSES BROUGHT ABOUT BY COMPENSATORY STEPS, SUCH AS BATTERY RELOCATION. NONETHELESS, SINCE THE US OR FRG WERE THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR OPTION C AND SINCE BOTH WERE LIKELY TO BE CONSTRAINED FROM LENDING THE EQUIPMENT, THE EFFECT OF THE REPORT WAS TO CREATE AN UNVIABLE OPTION. WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE RESULT WOULD BE THAT BELGIANS WOULD HIDE BEHIND OPTION C, WHICH WOULD NEGATE THE EFFORT TO GET THE GOB TO MAKE THE HARD BUDGETARY DECISION NEEDED.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE THE SHAPE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE INFORMAL GROUP FAVORED OPTION A, THEY NOTED THAT OVER TIME THE GOB WOULD BEAR THE LARGER PORTION OF THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPTION C AND THAT COSTS TO THE US AND FRG COULD BE LESS THAN IF WE AND THE GERMANS HAVE TO TAKE COMPENSATORY STEPS TO ACCOMMODATE TO BELGIAN WITH-

DRAWAL FROM THE HAWK BELT. HOWEVER, IF AFTER EVALUATION OF OPTION C WASHINGTON FINDS THAT IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE US, WE RECOMMEND WE BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM MUMFORD OF THIS FINDING AND COUNSEL AGAINST LUNS GOING FORWARD WITH OPTION C, ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH A COURSE COULD ONLY SERVE TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON THE GOB AND WOULD THUS DELAY A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. WE MIGHT USE THAT OCCASION TO EXPLORE WITH MUMFORD THE EXTENT TO WHICH TRADEOFFS WITHIN BELGIUM'S NATIONAL FORWARD PLANS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED. WE UNDERSTANT THAT SHAPE FEELS THAT THERE IS NO GIVE IN THE FORCE GOALS, BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW HARD THE NMAS HAVE SCRUTINIZED BELGIUM'S COUNTRY PLANS TO SEE IF NATIONAL PRIORITIES, E.G., GROUND TRANSPORT, SHOULD YIELD TO THE ALLIANCE

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PRIORITY, IMPROVED HAWK.

5. TO DATE, THE US HAS HELD BACK FROM TAKING THE LEAD IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THIS COURSE IS STILL PRUDENT; HOWEVER, WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HAVING US CALL ON BELGIAN PERMREP SCHUURMANS TO INFORM HIM THAT THE US WOULD NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO GRANT ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BELGIUM'S MILITARY PROGRAMS IN THE WAY IT DOES FOR LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS, AND THAT THE US WOULD REGRET UNILATERAL ACTION BY ANY ALLY SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTEGRATED HAWK BELT, THAT WOULD APPEAR TO ENTAIL COMPENSATORY EXPENDITURES BY THE US. WASHINGTON MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER THE UTILITY OF OUR CONCERTING WITH FRG PERMREP PAULS BEFORE APPROACHING SCHUURMANS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY JULY 8. STREATOR
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